

COVID-19 Vaccine Commercialization FAQ

We have collected a list of the most frequently asked questions about the COVID-19 vaccine commercialization. Don't see your question listed? Email vaccines@phila.gov for more information.

What is COVID-19 vaccine commercialization?

Commercialization of COVID-19 vaccines will transition vaccines previously purchased by the U.S. government to established pathways of procurement, distribution, and payment by both public and private payers.

What is the timeline for COVID-19 vaccine commercialization?

COVID-19 commercialization is estimated to take place in August or September. CDC has not yet confirmed the exact timeline for commercialization. PDPH will keep providers posted via email when we hear more details.

Will my pediatric practice be required to order COVID-19 vaccine?

With the exception of certain specialty providers, all enrolled Vaccines for Children (VFC) provider locations are required to procure and maintain COVID-19 vaccine inventory for the populations they serve. This is true for both VFC eligible children and privately insured patients. VFC providers will be able to order the minimum amount of COVID-19 vaccine via the PhilaVax immunization information systems (IIS) for VFC eligible patients.

Will I be penalized for COVID-19 vaccine wastage?

At this time, sites will not be penalized for COVID-19 vaccine wastage that is not due to negligence.

Will PDPH still supply COVID-19 vaccines for uninsured adults?

Yes. There will be a Bridge Access Program for uninsured adults to receive COVID-19 vaccine.

What is the Bridge Access Program?

The Bridge Program is a COVID-19 vaccine program for uninsured and underinsured adults 19 years of age and older in Philadelphia County. Read the [previous notice](#) for more information.

If we have a vial of Pfizer for 12+, can we give one dose to a child and one to an adult or do we have to use 2 vials?

Pfizer will only be shipping single vial doses for 12+.

Do I need dry ice or an ultra-low temperature freezer?

It depends. Moderna does not require specialized freezers or dry ice. However, Pfizer doses directly shipping from Pfizer are shipped at ultra-low temperatures (ULT), whereas doses coming from a distributor will be shipped at refrigerated temperatures, so it also depends on where you order from on your private side.

Doses shipped at ultra-low temperatures can be stored: 1) in an ULT freezer, 2) in the original shipping container if dry ice is refilled, or 3) in a regular refrigerator where the vaccine is viable for 10 weeks from the time of defrosting.

What brands are available?

We expect Novavax, Pfizer, and Moderna products all to be available to order this fall.

Do I have to pick one?

Sites can pick any product and have multiple products at a time, if they so choose.